

Exhibit 16

**IDOT Responses
to
Dan Ryan Taskforce**



Illinois Department of Transportation

Office of the Secretary
2300 South Dirksen Parkway / Springfield, Illinois / 62764
Telephone 217/782-5597

April 2, 2004

Dear Task Force Participant:

I want to again thank you for your efforts over the past couple months as part of the Dan Ryan Task Force (DRTF), particularly for your attention to detail in developing the DRTF recommendations provided to IDOT on March 19, 2004. We have carefully reviewed the DRTF recommendations, and we offer the following response.

With regard to the alternative design recommendation, we are in the process of transmitting revised design information to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) which includes your request to reinstate the northbound and southbound exit ramps at 51st Street. As we have discussed, the FHWA has final decision-making authority regarding any changes to the already approved plan.

Regarding the health and environmental safety recommendation, the Department is committed to including all reasonable measures to minimize the potential environmental impacts of construction activities. The Department understands and shares the DRTF's concern for potential air quality impacts associated with construction operations. Therefore, we are working closely with the Illinois Department of Public Health and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency to address these concerns as quickly as possible. As you might be aware, these two agencies are charged with ensuring clean air and better health for the public.

There are a number of measures already in place for the Dan Ryan construction contracts to minimize potential impacts, such as the standard specification for dust control. This standard specification requires the completion of a dust control plan by the contractors. The dust control plan will consider such measures as minimizing tracking-out of soil onto nearby public roads, reducing vehicle speed on unpaved surfaces, covering of stock piles and haul vehicles, applying water or chemical suppressants to exposed surfaces, etc. The dust control plans are to be readily available for use on the project site. The Department is also looking into retrofitting heavy diesel construction equipment with "scrubbers." Finally, air quality monitoring stations already exist in the area that may be of use and there is potential for providing additional fixed or mobile air quality monitoring stations.

I understand and agree that the inclusion of Disadvantaged Business Enterprises with this project is important. That is why we have developed a new Office of Business and Workforce Diversity to improve opportunity for DBE firms to do business with the Department and improve overall participation levels. In addition, we opened the DBE Resource Center at 900 S. Des Plaines so we can better disseminate project information and actively work with DBE contractors. The Department will continue its efforts to disseminate project information and continue to work with the community to maximize the opportunities for awarded contracts and jobs. As we have discussed in the past, federal law precludes IDOT from limiting opportunities on the Dan Ryan project to any specific group or area.

Your recommendation included the suggestion that IDOT provide the DRTF with a budget. Our public/community relations firms, Danielle Ashley and Cushman Amberg will continue to work with the community to disseminate project information in an ongoing and routine manner. This effort will include a reporting mechanism to issue advisories on any construction-related air quality concerns that may arise. As always, we welcome suggestions and comments from the task force and other community members about this project.

Finally, regarding the Dan Ryan budget recommendation, information detailing the specific budgeted line items in the Department's program for the Dan Ryan Expressway reconstruction project was provided to the DRTF at the meeting on March 12, 2004. Exhibit 1 from that package of information was updated to indicate the DBE certification category for subconsultants/subcontractors and provided to the DRTF prior to the March 19, 2004 DRTF meeting.

As noted, some of these issues require further review by IDOT, and we will keep you informed as more information becomes available. Thank you again for the time you have invested in providing us with this recommendation, and we look forward to continuing discussions with the surrounding communities as the Dan Ryan Expressway reconstruction project progresses.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Timothy W. Martin". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping "T" and a cursive "Martin".

Timothy W. Martin
Secretary



Illinois Department of Transportation

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April 9, 2004

To The Members of the Dan Ryan Task Force (DRTF):

We at the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) created the DRTF to give a voice to you and the many communities that will be affected by the Dan Ryan Expressway Project. Our plan was to gather community leaders not only to inform you and your communities about the project, but--even more importantly--to give you the opportunity to share your thoughts and ideas with us on behalf of the communities you represent. I believe that we have made this process a success.

I was concerned to learn that you felt my absence at the April 2, 2004 meeting was a sign of disrespect. No such disrespect was intended. It has been my directive that IDOT representatives be at every meeting. The April 2 meeting was no exception, as Danielle Ashley Communications, our community outreach experts who have worked closely with the task force, were in attendance. As you know, I was required -- as the Congressionally-mandated lead ex-officio member for the Northeast Illinois Regional Transportation Task Force -- to attend that meeting on the same day. I regret that it was impossible for me to attend the DRTF meetings as they were scheduled in conflict with this other meeting.

I have expressed my appreciation for your efforts and enthusiasm in the past. Let me share with you again how grateful my staff and I are for your volunteer efforts and for providing us with detailed recommendations on design, environmental, economic growth, employment, and training issues. Based largely on your recommendations, IDOT will now expand the process to involve affected communities even further. Many of these measures will go even further than your recommendations.

- **Public Hearing:** As we have discussed in the past, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) must approve any changes made to the original plan, which was approved in August and included twelve ramps slated for removal. Since, we have modified the plan to reinstate six of those twelve ramps. Included in the process, IDOT will hold a public hearing in May to outline the modified plan and to present the Environmental Assessment (EA). We will send out invitations for this meeting to elected officials, community members, key stakeholders and other interest groups. In addition, we plan to invite the CTA to discuss its Red Line Project, CDOT to outline landscaping and aesthetics issues, FHWA to talk about the EA, and the Chicago Area Transportation Study to discuss the Ride-Sharing Program (which will explain alternate transportation opportunities during construction).

- **Vendor Fairs:** We will hold vendor fairs throughout the Dan Ryan Corridor to educate residents about how they can do business with IDOT and other state agencies involved in the project. DOT deals with construction contractors, while other state agencies contract for such services as printing, messengers, administrative duties, supplies, and similar work.
- **Supportive Services Program:** This \$2 million investment will provide assistance to Disadvantaged Business Enterprises in the areas of management, technical, technology and finance and bonding in an effort to contribute to their growth and develop their businesses' skills to a level of self-sufficiency.
- **Work Force Training Program:** Included in our commitment to the south side communities, IDOT has made an additional \$2 million investment to work force training. This is a stipend-based program that will teach people the skills required to gain acceptance into apprenticeship programs, which lead to Union admission and qualifications to work on the Dan Ryan and other construction projects.
- **DBE Resource Center:** We will continue to host workshops at the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Resource Center located at 900 S. Des Plaines. Here, participants can learn how to become pre-qualified to bid on IDOT contracts and how to become certified as a DBE.
- **Monthly Open Houses:** IDOT will host open houses monthly to keep the lines of communication open between your community and IDOT.
- **Focus Groups:** IDOT will organize a series of focus groups at various locations throughout the Dan Ryan corridor to address environmental concerns, job opportunities, training programs, contractor workshops, obtaining free consulting services and other topics the community might deem necessary.
- **Interactive Website:** We plan to launch a website especially for the Dan Ryan Project where you can access up-to-date information about IDOT events and Dan Ryan construction information. Users can sign up for email alerts as well as have the opportunity to get questions answered through our *Ask the Engineer* link.
- **312-DOT-INFO:** You can call this number 24 hours a day to get construction information. There is also voicemail for people to leave comments, concerns or compliments.
- **Comment Cards:** You will find comment cards at the 11 public libraries along the Dan Ryan corridor between 31st and 95th. This is yet another option you will have to make sure that the voices of your community are heard.

This campaign is intended to be as thorough as possible and seeks to serve the south side residents, businesses and key stakeholders well. I wanted you to be one of the first to hear about this new aggressive outreach campaign because of your demonstrated commitment to this issue. Although this campaign will replace the Dan Ryan Task Force, we encourage you to lend your expertise on this topic as an individual leader in your community.

Again, we thank you for your time and energy on this project. Without your efforts I strongly believe we would not be where we are today. I look forward to our ongoing relationship.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Timothy W. Martin". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "T" and a long, horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Timothy W. Martin
Secretary